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Security Council

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Letter dated 14 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 12 May 2014 regarding the latest report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (S/2014/319), particularly the unfounded allegation that the Lord's Resistance Army leader and some of his senior commanders have recently returned to seek safe haven in Sudanese-controlled areas of the Kafia Kingi enclave, please find attached the statement issued by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan (see annex), which reflects the advanced position of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan in combating the Lord's Resistance Army since 2002, and the constructive engagement of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan in all regional initiatives in this regard.

Having brought this to your kind attention, we reiterate the unwavering commitment of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan to continue cooperating fully with all the regional efforts, namely the African Union Task Force, in order to combat the Lord's Resistance Army. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman **Elnor**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Press release

The Ministry has followed the discussions of the Security Council on the item concerning the Central African region. Those discussions culminated in the issuance of a statement by the President of the Security Council on Monday, 12 May 2014 (S/PRST/2014/8). That statement included a reference to a passage in the Secretary-General's report concerning the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), namely, that credible sources suggest that the LRA leader Joseph Kony and senior LRA commanders have recently returned to seek safe haven in Sudanese-controlled areas of the Kafia Kingi area. In that connection, the Ministry would like to state the following:

First, the Sudan has fought LRA for many years. In 2002, the Sudan concluded an agreement with the Ugandan Government that allowed it to pursue LRA inside Sudanese territory. That agreement was renewed annually until the separation of South Sudan. Many Sudanese civilians and members of the armed forces have fallen victim to LRA attacks over the years.

Second, like the international community, the Sudan unequivocally condemns the atrocities that LRA has committed against civilians, including children and women, and rejects its ideology and practices because they fly in the face of human values and principles and the Sudanese people's morals, ideals and beliefs. The Sudan does not have any links to this terrorist organization and has no interest in allowing it to be present in its territory.

Third, since 2009, the Sudan has been involved in the African Union Regional Cooperation Initiative against LRA, including through its participation in the meetings of the region's ministers of defence that took place in Bangui in 2010, and the meetings of the ministers of defence, the chiefs of staff and security experts that were held in Addis Ababa in 2011-2012. Given that the Sudan does not have borders with Uganda, and in accordance with the classification of LRA-affected areas established by the African Union, the Sudan is an observer member and its role is limited to exchange of information.

Fourth, the Sudan is surprised by the reference in the report of the United Nations Secretary-General regarding the presence of Joseph Kony in Kafia Kingi. The report does not give the source of this information, nor does it indicate how the information was verified. In addition, the Government of the Sudan was not informed in advance of these allegations, in order that it might investigate them and offer its cooperation, particularly given the total cooperation and transparency that the Sudan has demonstrated in responding to this matter.

Fifth, the Sudan reiterates that it is fully prepared to address in all seriousness any documented information and reliable data regarding the presence of LRA members in its territory. It calls on the African Union Commission and African Union Peace and Security Council to verify whether these members are present anywhere in the Sudan, in accordance with the agreed upon mechanisms and arrangements.